

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract and required that it be limited to a single paragraph with a range of 50 to 150 words. Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that it was unclear if Applicant was attempting to claim the muntin bar in combination with the terminal plug. Claim 10 was also identified as including improper claim language. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,099,626 to Seeger. Furthermore, in view of the Examiner's rejection under §112, claims 1-8 and 10-19 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,312,215 to Anquetin. Finally, claims 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Anquetin. Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejection of claim 8 was a typo and that the Examiner intended to identify claim 9.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 14 and 19 have been amended to claim a muntin in combination with a terminal plug. The language of claim 10 has also been clarified in response to the Examiner's rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102

In addition to the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the terminal plug includes a longitudinal slot. Such a slot is clearly not shown by Seeger. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 based upon Seeger.

As discussed above, the claims as amended recite the combination of a muntin and a terminal plug. This combination is clearly not shown, or discussed by Anquetin. Therefore,

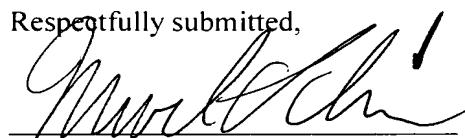
Applicant submits that claims 1-8 and 10-19 are now properly allowable over the cited prior art.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9 and 18 are also now allowable as they depend from an allowable independent claim.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the abstract and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.”

Respectfully submitted,



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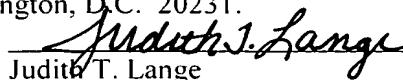
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Judith T. Lange

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT:

A new abstract has been provided on a separate sheet.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 and 19 have been amended as follows:

1 1. (Amended) A terminal plug made out of plastic for screwing a muntin
2 bar or a muntin cross to a spacer frame of in particular an insulated glass window,
3 comprising in combination:

4 a muntin having an end and an outer surface, said end of said muntin including
5 a hollow space and an inner wall; and

6 a terminal plug, said terminal plug having a flange, a plug body and a
7 longitudinal slot, [a] said flange [which is to be] being positioned onto [an] the outer
8 surface of the muntin [bar, and a] and said plug body [to be fitted] having a surface
9 and being fitted into [a] said hollow space of [the] said end of said muntin [profile,
10 wherein], said plug body being formed such that it can be spread apart when installed
11 into [the] said muntin [bar, the plug body provides] and provide a press fit by at least
12 a part of its surface pressed against [a surface of an] said inner wall of [the] said
13 muntin [bar, which the terminal plug is formed such that it can be spread apart].

1 2. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 1, [comprising
2 a] wherein said longitudinal slot [into which] is adapted to receive a screw [is to be
3 screwed] passing through said flange for the purpose of spreading the plug body apart.

1 3. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 2, wherein the
2 longitudinal slot [of which] is coaxially aligned with [the] a longitudinal axis of the
3 plug body.

1 4. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 2, wherein the
2 longitudinal slot [of which] completely penetrates the plug body.

1 5. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 2, wherein the
2 longitudinal slot [of which] has a width at [the] an upper end of the plug[,] which is
3 different from the width at [the] a bottom end of the plug.

1 6. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 5, [comprising]
2 wherein said longitudinal slot has a greater width at the upper [part] end of the plug
3 body facing the flange[, whereas] and its width is smaller in that part of the plug body
4 facing [its] the bottom end.

1 7. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 2, [comprising]
2 wherein said longitudinal slot has relieved surfaces or slotted walls.

1 8. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 7, [comprising]
2 wherein said slot is provided with teeth.

1 9. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 8, [comprising]
2 wherein the distance between [the] opposed walls of said slot provided with said teeth

3 becomes smaller starting from [the] an upper end of the plug provided with [the] a
4 flange down to the bottom end of the plug.

1 10. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 8, [comprising]
2 wherein the size of the teeth [being] are such that a screw, by which the terminal plug
3 is fixed to the [spacer frame] muntin, is passed through the slot and is provided with a
4 tip which abuts the successively arranged teeth, thereby widening said slot.

1 11. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 10, [comprising]
2 wherein said slot has a greater width at [an] the upper end than at [the] a bottom [of
3 the plug] end of the plug.

1 12. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug according to claim 2, [comprising]
2 wherein the upper end of said longitudinal slot comprises a recess passing through the
3 flange of the terminal plug and receiving refuse material therein.

1 13. (Amended) [A] The terminal plug and muntin combination according
2 to claim 12, [comprising] wherein said recess is formed by a cone followed by a
3 cylindrical hollow space, the volume of each of them is adapted to the amount of
4 refusal.

1 14. (Amended) A terminal plug for securing a muntin bar or cross to a
2 spacer frame comprising in combination:
3 a muntin having an end, said end having a hollow profile; and

4 a terminal plug, said terminal plug including a body and a flange secured to
5 said body, said body being insertable into said hollow profile of said end of said
6 muntin and having a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal slot coaxially aligned with said
7 axis and a plurality of spring elements[; and a], said flange being secured to said body
8 and adapted to engage [an] said end of [a] said muntin bar.

1 19. (Amended) A terminal plug for securing a muntin bar or cross to a
2 spacer frame comprising in combination:

3 a muntin having an end and an inner wall; and

4 a terminal plug including:

5 a body having a longitudinal axis[,] and a longitudinal slot coaxially
6 aligned with said axis, said longitudinal slot having an upper end and a bottom
7 end and a plurality of teeth;

8 a plurality of laminally formed spring elements extending from said
9 body and adapted to engage [an] said inner wall of [a] said muntin [bar]; and

10 a flange secured to said body proximate said upper end and adapted to
11 engage [an] said end of [a] said muntin [bar or cross], said flange having a
12 recess in communication with said longitudinal slot.